

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10006 060950Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----034732 060951Z /10
P 060942Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1411

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10006

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. USDA ADVISED AGATT BY TELEPHONE THAT SECRETARY BERGLAND WILL CARRY SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO SOVIET LEADERSHIP. PLEASE CONTACT SCHOONOVER/EULER IN USDA, OBTAIN DETAILS AND ADVISE ASAP.

2. RE PARA 1, STATE 114350, RE BRITISH AND CANADIAN EMBASSIES STAFFING. THE BRITISH HAVE A TOTAL OF 81 (44 OFFICERS AND 37 STAFF). THE CANADIANS HAVE A TOTAL OF 45 (16 OFFICERS, 29 STAFF). NO SOVIETS, THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS OR CONTRACT WORKING WIVES ARE INCLUDED IN THESE FIGURES. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN OFFICERS AND STAFF EMPLOYEES IS NOT CLEARLY DEFINED BY EITHER THE BRITISH OR CANADIANS, NOR DOES OUR FOREIGN SERVICE HAVE A CLEAR AND GENERALLY ACCEPTED DEFINITION.

3. KOMPLEKTOV SURFACED FRIDAY, APRIL 28 DURING ISSRAELYAN'S LUNCH FOR JIM LEONARD. SOKOLOV REAPPEARED SAME EVENING FOR BILL BROWN'S DINNER FOR LEONARD/ISSRAELYAN. SOKOLOV SAID THAT JUST BEFORE SECRETARY VANCE'S ARRIVAL HE HAD
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BEEN HIT BY HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, THEN TONSILITIS, THEN FLU. HAVING COME TO WORK ON APRIL 26 HE'D BEEN SENT BACK HOME WITH HIGH TEMPERATURE. FEDOSEYEV IS REPORTEDLY OUT OF HOSPITAL RECUPERATING FOR "A COUPLE OF WEEKS" FROM WHAT APPARENTLY WAS A MINOR STROKE. LOOKING BACK, IT MAY HAVE BEEN JUST WHAT WAS BILLED AS AN EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE, BUT WE WONDER. NO FURTHER WORD ON THE

YUGOSLAV STORY.

4. YOUR SECOND TEST LETTER DATED MAY 1 ARRIVED HERE IN CLASSIFIED POUCH MAY 4 AND REACHED THE DCM'S DESK MORNING OF MAY 5. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH PROMPT ARRIVAL OF YOUR FIRST TEST LETTER (MOSCOW 9703) THIS CONFIRMS OUR POINT (MOSCOW 3505) THAT ANYTHING IMPORTANT OR EVEN MODERATELY URGENT BE SENT BY CLASSIFIED POUCH. THE UNCLASSIFIED POUCH SITUATION REMAINS HIGHLY TENUOUS.
 5. RE SIMPSON ETA (PARA 3, STATE 111039). EARLY JUNE ARRIVAL BY SIMPSON IS FINE.
 6. WE HAVE THE FULL 1973 FILE, INCLUDING THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH OPENED THE NON-CONVERTIBLE RUBLE ACCOUNT. THE PROBLEM WAS THAT WHEN THIS ACCOUNT REACHED A ZERO BALANCE IN 1974 OR EARLY 75, IT WAS CLOSED BY THE SOVIET BANK AUTOMATICALLY. THE NON-CONVERTIBLE RUBLE ACCOUNT HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, SINCE THE PROBABLE CENTRAL LABOR CONTRACT FOR LOCAL EMPLOYEES AND PAYMENT BY HARD CURRENCY BANK TRANSFER ELIMINATES MUCH OF OUR ABILITY TO ABSORB RUBLES. MOSCOW 7019 AND 8682 EXPLAIN THIS SITUATION.
- TOON

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